Discuss

Talk through your thoughts.

• The author creates vivid character names in this book. Talk with someone about your name. What does it mean? Is there a story behind it?
• The book is about friends and family. Discuss what friends and family mean to you.

Create

Make an experience of your own.

• Opal learns many things about her mom. Create a list of 10 things about YOU!
• Spend some time with someone and learn 10 things about them! Make a character collage of words, pictures, etc.

Imagine

Use your imagination to explore.

• Imagine you could make a new title for this book. Draw a new cover with your title.
• Find your favorite parts in the story and act them out with a friend.

Explore

Like this book? Find more:

• Almost Home by Joan Bauer
• 13-Story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths
• Center of Everything by Linda Urban
• Breadcrumbs by Anne Ursu
**DISCUSS**

Talk through your thoughts.

- Which U.S. region are you from? What makes your region special?
- Which other U.S. regions have you visited? What did you do there? How was it different than the region you are from?

**CREATE**

Make an experience of your own.

- Make a travel brochure highlighting your region. Be sure to include your favorite places to visit and things to do!
- Make a collage that illustrates what your region looks like. You can use old magazines, newspapers and family photos.

**IMAGINE**

Use your imagination to explore.

- Imagine you are taking a trip anywhere in the U.S. Where would you go and what would you do?
- Explore your environment for things that are significant to your region. Create a map/diagram with this information.

**EXPLORE**

Like this book? Find more:

- Capitals by Jennifer Hurtig
- Historic Buildings by Leia Tait
- Illustrated Timeline of U.S. States by Patricia Wooster
- Land by Dona Herweck Rice
- Natural Landmarks by Lauren Diemer
- Wet and Dry Places by Emily C. Dawson
Discuss

Talk through your thoughts.

- What do you think about water power? What are the pros? What are the cons?
- Which type of water power has the most potential in the future? Why?

Create

Make an experience of your own.

- Follow the directions on page 30 for building your own water-powered turbine.
- Make a list of all the ways we use water. Create a public service announcement about why water is so important.

Imagine

Use your imagination to explore.

- Find out about other sources of renewable energy. Compare what you learn about them with what you know about water power.
- Find out which energy sources your community depends on. How is electricity generated?

Explore

Like this book? Find more:

- The Science of Lighting a City: Electricity in Action by Jim Whiting
- Onion Juice, Poop, and Other Surprising Sources of Alternative Energy by Mark Weakland
- A Refreshing Look at Renewable Energy with Max Axiom by Katherine Krohn
- This Journal Belongs to Ratchet by Nancy Cavanaugh
**Discuss**

Talk through your thoughts.

- Have you ever wanted to explore space? Discuss this with someone.
- When you look up into the sky what do you think about?

**Create**

Make an experience of your own.

- Build a spacecraft with materials around your house. What features do you think are important for a space shuttle?
- Design a gravity experiment.

**Imagine**

Use your imagination to explore.

- Imagine you took a trip into space. Write/draw a journal about your days and nights.
- Imagine you could interview an astronaut. Write down the questions for your interview. Ask a friend to be the astronaut and create answers!

**Explore**

Like this book? Find more:

- Gravity by Matt Mullins
- Exploring Space Robots by Deborah Kops
- Spaceheadz: 1 by Jon Scieszka
- Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Talk through your thoughts.

- Do you have a pet? What are your responsibilities? If not, would you like a pet? Why?
- There are a lot of “tips” for caring for hamsters and humans throughout this story. Talk with someone about these and how they apply to both hamsters and humans.

Make an experience of your own.

- Create a special cage for Humphrey. What will you include in it?
- Select your favorite part of the book and read it ALOUD-ALoud-ALOUD!

Use your imagination to explore.

- Imagine a conversation you may have with a pet or another animal. Write/draw it out.
- Pretend you could talk to the author Betty G. Birney. What would you talk to her about?

Like this book? Find more:

- Best Friends Forever!: And More Stories of Animal Friendships by Amy Shields
- Jake and Lily by Jerry Spinelli
- Friendship According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney
- Love Your Hamster by Judith Heneghan